



## Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly highlights GRIC at roundtable

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly held a roundtable discussion on March 10 at Arizona State University's Decision Theater. The meeting allowed space to discuss the current challenges associated with the state's drought, tools that have been brought to Arizona by Sen. Kelly's work on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the work that remains to secure Arizona's water future.

"We're facing this historic drought that's led to a shortage on the Colorado River and it strains our other water sources. I've been focused on this issue since day one in the Senate," said Sen. Kelly. "This issue poses a challenge that not that only affects Arizona but one that also impacts the western portion of the country,"

Sen. Kelly was instrumental in developing portions of the western water plans for the BIL that have enabled many upgrades and modernization of existing water delivery systems. While many of the state's projects are in de-



**Stakeholder that attended the roundtable discussion (L-R) Leslie Meyers, Brenda Burman, Commissioner Camille Touton, Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, Sarah Porter, Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Eltson Grubaugh, Leslie Myers, and Tom Buschatzke. Kyle Knox/GRIN**

velopment with the BIL and IRA funding, Sen. Kelly highlighted some existing initiatives currently in place by the Gila River Indian Community at the meeting.

Sen. Kelly commended the

Community's innovative water conservation efforts as a benchmark the state and municipalities must consider. The Community's Managed Aquifer Recharge Site #5 (MAR 5) was an emphasis of

his remarks. He also shared the Community's new solar-covered canal projects as another distinctive approach. Both are noteworthy for long-term plans to conserve Community water, contributing to

the state's overall water table and prime examples of how federal funding works effectively.

"The IRA will help to protect our [GRIC] water rights and implement systems so our water users will leave Colorado River water in Lake Mead and protect the elevation levels there," said Gov. Lewis. "More importantly, as the Community and [GRIC] leadership sees it, this funding will be used to fund projects that will result in long-term water efficiency savings."

The gathering included representatives from crucial water stakeholders, including GRIC Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis; Tom Buschatzke, Arizona Dept. of Water Resources; Sarah Porter, ASU Kyle Center for Water Policy; Eltson Grubaugh, Welton-Mohawk irrigation District; Commissioner Camille Touton, US Bureau of Reclamation; Brenda Burman, Central Arizona Project; and Leslie Myers, Salt River Project.

The meeting highlighted stakeholders' various efforts to en-

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## New Miss Gila River & Jr. Miss Gila River crowned

**Emma Hughes**  
Gila River Indian News

This month the Gila River Royalty ushered in new ambassadors with two pageants held for the Jr. Miss Gila River and Miss Gila River titles on March 10 and 11.

Lehua Lani Dosela, from District 6, is crowned Miss Gila River 2023-2024, and Eleanor Lynch, from District 3, is the new Jr. Miss Gila River 2023-2024.

### **Jr. Miss Gila River Pageant**

Three contestants vied for the title of Jr. Miss Gila River before judges and the Community at the Gila Crossing Community School on Friday, March 10, under the theme "Preserving our O'otham and Pee-Posh way of life."

Caiden Lewis, from District 4, daughter of Malorie Miguel and Derek Lewis, was awarded the title of First Attendant Jr. Miss Gila River. Kalyne Miguel, from District 6, daughter of Denise Jackson and Francisco Miguel, received the title of Second Attendant Jr. Miss Gila River. Lynch's parents are Ashton Lynch and Kevin Jackson.

"It's good to be in the setting we are today," said Lt. Gov. Monica Antone before thanking

the Gila River Royalty Committee and volunteers for organizing the event. This year's pageants are the first open to the Community since 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contestants introduced themselves and their platforms before their talent showcase, traditional and business attire followed by an impromptu question.

Lynch's platform for her reign will focus on bringing awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, a topic she feels needs more attention.

"I want to bring awareness to youth about this issue, by participating in school and Community events," said Lynch. First Attendant Lewis' platform focuses on traditional teachings for youth, and Miguel's focus is self-image and acceptance.

For the talent portion, Lynch shared her knowledge of local plants and their traditional and medicinal uses, for which she won the "most talented" award. The "Christine Brown Award," formally the miss congeniality award, went to Lewis.

The judging panel for both pageants included former Miss Gila



**Lehua Lani Dosela, District 6, the 60th Miss Gila River stands alongside Miss Gila River First Attendant Mavis Thomas, District 2, at the Miss Gila River pageant held at Gila River Resorts & Casinos -- Vee Quiva on March 11. Emma Hughes/GRIN**

River title holders: Pamela Thompson '81, Jessica Antone-Romo '97, Laticia Jackson-Whitman '71, and GRIC member Ron Nasewytewa,

and Juleigh Burke from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Before passing on the crown,

outgoing 2022-2023 Jr. Miss Gila River Eliana Rhodes reflected on

*Continued on Page 4*

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# Two Students complete training to bring home

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

On March 3, Phillip Morales, District 4, and Wade Mix, District 1, completed the Apartment Maintenance Pathway Program at RSI, The Refrigeration School. The four-week program focused on grounds and property maintenance at multi-home complexes and maintenance labor skills.

They are the first GRIC cohort to complete the program that trained the students in multiple skills utilized for facilities and maintenance, including plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and carpentry.

"It feels great. I got a lot of knowledge in apartment maintenance and maintenance in general, you pick up many skills in this program," said Mix. He chose this program because of all the skills training the program offers in just four weeks. One area of interest he would like to concentrate on in the future is electrical.

Phillip Morales shared the same sentiments about completing the program as his colleague

Wade. Both know one other outside of the program and Morales was encouraged to apply after learning Wade enrolled.

Morales found the lessons on HVAC and plumbing most exciting and is now considering more specialized training in welding.

"This program offered the students many of the much-needed labor skills the Community needs so now they'll be an asset wherever they're placed," said Eulonda Martinez, Program Supervisor for Employment and Training.

Unique to the Apartment Maintenance Pathway Program is that RSI students receive their certificate of completion after completing the program. Then RSI will then assist with job placement and can later test the students for a Certificate for Apartment Maintenance Technician. This certification validates their knowledge, boosts credibility, and creates opportunities for higher-paying jobs.

Martinez has seen the amount of open facility and maintenance positions in the Community and



**Wade Mix receives his certificate and tool belt from Sarah Fluke, Deputy Director of the Arizona Multihousing Assoc. and Joshua Winters, CAMT program instructor. Kyle Knox/GRIN**

thought this would be an excellent program to equip GRIC members with everything required of a candidate.

Now that training is complete, Morales and Wade will begin work with the Community's facility maintenance department, where they will utilize their skills back at home.

As graduates, Morales and

Mix both encourage Community members to consider the program due to the numerous skills learned. And they also enjoyed the support Employment and Training offers students while in the program.

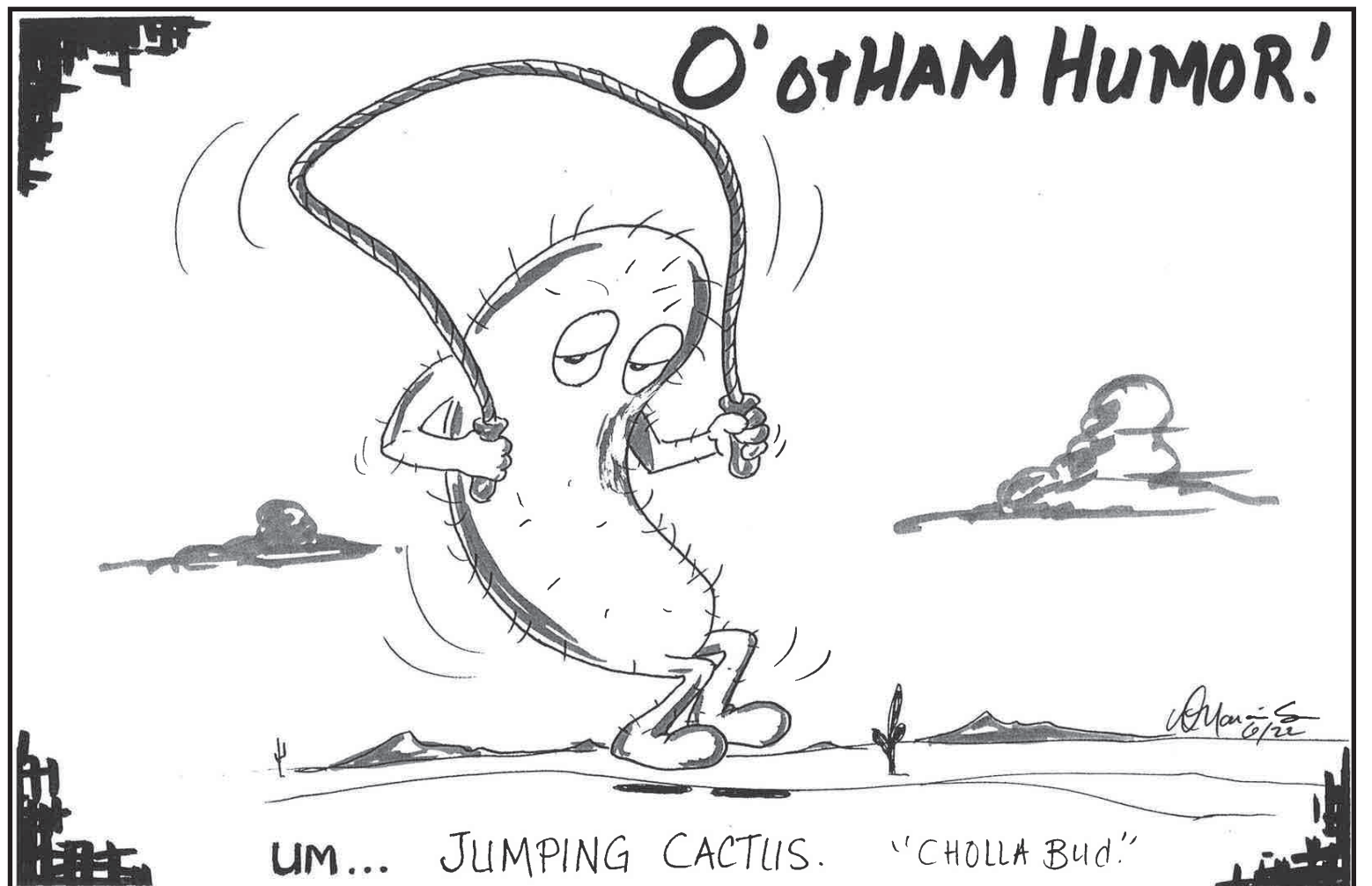
To learn more about this and other Employment and Training programs, call 520-562-3388 or 3387.



**Jackie Warren, Phillip Morales, Eulonda Martinez, Wade Mix, at the graduation ceremony for Morales and Mix and the RSI, The Refrigeration School in Phoenix. Kyle Knox/GRIN**



**Phillip Morales receives his certificate and tool belt that was gifted to the students at the graduation ceremony in Phoenix. Kyle Knox/GRIN**





Newly crowned 2023-2024 Jr. Miss Gila River Court (L-R) Caiden Lewis, Jr. Miss Gila River First Attendant, Eleanor Lynch, Jr. Miss Gila River, and Kalyne Miguel, Jr. Miss Gila River Second Attendant. Emma Hughes/GRIN

From the front page

her reign while thanking her family and the Community.

"I've grown to be so much more confident in myself as an O'odham woman and figure out where I come from, where I fit in, and where I stand," said Rhodes, "There is no right or wrong way to be Jr. Miss Gila River, is what I realized. Every girl here, every girl in the Gila River Indian Community has something they're passionate about."

Rhodes took her fare-

well walk through the crowd, greeting friends and family in attendance. Lt. Gov. Monica Antone gifted Rhodes a Pendleton blanket on behalf of the Executive Office and the Community.

60th Miss Gila River Pageant

The following day, two contestants vied for the title of Miss Gila River during the pageant held at the Gila River Resorts & Casinos - Vee Quiva on Saturday, March 11. Dosela, daughter of Arvis Dosela and Lorraine Dosela, was crowned the new Miss Gila River 2023-2024.

"I feel so grateful for

the opportunity to participate in the 60th Miss Gila River Pageant and I am very honored to represent the Gila River Indian Community," Dosela said. She attends Mesa Community College, majoring in fire science, and Tohono O'odham Community College, where she majors in business administration.

Continuing with the theme "Preserving our O'otham and Pee-Posh way of life," contestants shared their platforms focused on youth and traditions.

Dosela's platform is to promote the traditional O'odham and Pee-Posh

ways of life by teaching the language, songs, and dances. She said she's excited to host events that promote these songs and dances.

Mavis Thomas, District 2, daughter of Marky Thomas and Tyrone Jose, received the title of First Attendant to Miss Gila River 2023-2024. She currently studies computer science at the Tohono O'odham Community College.

Her platform concentrates on mentoring children and teenagers at the Community's residential program for youth (RPY) by inspiring them while teaching them O'otham traditions.

The "Christine Brown award" was given to Thomas. Then, Dosela received the most talented award

for performing an O'otham song about a swallow birds journey to the top of South Mountain.

And as part of the pageant programming, the outgoing 2022-2023 Miss Gila River Kelsey Ann Martinez, and First Attendant Gabrielle Garcia, did one last farewell walk across the room and stage.

"It's been an absolute honor to serve as your 59th Miss Gila River," said Kelsey Ann Martinez during her farewell speech. "Thank you for supporting and accepting me and let us show the same support and acceptance to our incoming royalty."

Martinez and Garcia were presented with Pendleton blankets from GRIC Council Representatives

Ann Lucas and Regina Antone on behalf of the Executive Office and the Community.

"This is a token of appreciation from women from our tribe, that you'll always be protected, and prayers will always go with you," said Lt. Gov. Antone, "Thank you for being the young O'otham women that you are."

In celebration of the 60th Miss Gila River pageant, former title holders throughout the years were present, proudly wearing their sashes.

"I'm glad, this experience will help me be a strong O'odham woman in the future," said Thomas, "No matter what, I am glad that I am representing my Community."



Former Miss Gila River title holders in attendance for the Miss Gila River pageant with the newly crowned Miss Gila River 2023-24 Lehua Lani Dosela and Miss Gila River First Attendant 2023-24 Mavis Thomas. Emma Hughes/GRIN

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GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY



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# Kwi I'ivakithak Mashath 2023

The name for this month references the kwi (Mesquite tree) "leafing out" and is nature's way of letting us know that spring has arrived. The record breaking rainfall since last fall has made the jeved (Earth) very lush with plant growth. Many wildflowers have sprung up throughout our community. Wildflower seeds can lay dormant for many years waiting for just the right amount of rainfall to germinate and grow. Our Hekiu O'otham named everything in our present natural environment including wildflowers. In the Akimel O'otham plant classification system wild annuals have their own category and are descriptive of their appearance, or a characteristic of their behavior. A few common wildflowers on the landscape are: Thohavs - White Brittlebush, the O'otham root word thoha means 'to become white'. This plant is mentioned in the O'otham Creation Epic as being a bed for the infant Ban (Coyote). This is one

of the first desert-plants to bloom in early spring, most notable along the road sides in our community. Chu:v tha:thaq, chu:v thadpo - Owl-clover, the O'otham name for this plant translates to 'jackrabbit's foot and jackrabbit's foot-hair. It can be found growing along roadsides or in shallows where rainwater collects. Chi:no hi:thpa - Desert Larkspur, the name for this plant translates to 'Chinese queue' due to the shape of this plant's blue flowers resembling the Asian hairstyle. This wildflower is usually found along the tho'othonk (foothills) Ho:hi e'es - Mexican Gold Poppy, the name for this wild annual is appropriate as 'Mourning Dove's plants or flowers' since the ho:hi and many animals eat the seeds after the seed pods mature and burst open. Thash ma:hag - Desert Lupine, the name for this plant thash ma:hag literally translates to 'sun hands' or 'hands toward the sun' and references the heliotropic [to follow the sun] qualities

of this plant. The O'otham observed how the leaves of this plant resemble an open hand and how they follow the sun throughout the solar day. S-oam e'es - Desert Marigold, this plant's name translates to "yellow plants/flowers", and are evident along most roadways. Hevel hiosig - Parry's Penstemons, the name of this plant translates to "Wind's Flower", and can be found along the foothills and sandy washes. Their stalks and showy flowers can be often observed blowing in the wind. This is a good time to observe wildflowers in their natural environment before they go dormant. This month's word match will test your memory of the wildflower plant names. Speak with an Elder, or Speaker about the wildflower plant names. Names may be slightly different between the villages.

*A Special Thank You to community Elders who shared their knowledge of wildflower plant names that made this article possible.*

## Kwi I'ivakithak Mashath 2023 Match the O'otham wildflower name with its picture!

s-oam e'es



thash ma:hag



ho:hi e'es



chi:no hi:thpa



chu:v thathaq



thohavs




hevel hiosig



Photographs Courtesy Robert Johnson

Additional source related Gila River Pima, Amadeo from "At the Desert's Green Rea, University of Arizona Edge: An Ethnobotany of the Press, 1997.

**Word Match Solution on Page 13**




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# FITNESS & WELLNESS

## GRIC Family Outing event provides nutrition and kidney education

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

March is National Nutrition and Kidney Health month. So in order to bring awareness about these important health areas, the Community Health Education Program and Community Health Nutrition Program hosted a Family Outing on March 4. The family gathering took place at the Mul-Chu-Tha Fairgrounds for

families to learn about the services and education both programs provide.

“We wanted to do something different than the walks and runs we normally host, so we thought outside the box and hold some cornhole games since it’s become popular in the Community,” said Nichole Watson, Program Manager for the Community Health Education Program. “It’s really great to have families come out this morning,

after COVID where we can all come together as a Community once again, I’m happy to see everyone again.”

In addition to the education provided that morning on kidney health, organizers provided cornhole games to encourage movement and fun gameplay. And as part of the agenda, everyone received a healthy brunch provided by Alyssa Dixon, owner of Alyssa’s Kosin.

“I like to bring fresher ingredients into the Community to show how we can all eat heartier and healthier with Indigenous ingredients,” said Alyssa Dixon. “Through food, here today, we’re able to elevate our Indigenous foods and traditional ingredients and showing how we can eat those every day and making them more accessible is what I like to do as well.”

The brunch menu included overnight oats and waffles. Dixon “Indigenized” her menu by adding local ingredients like Bai’daj seeds in overnight oats and



Tanya Garcia and her daughter Lexis enjoy a game of cornhole at the Mul-Chu-Tha fairgrounds for the Family Outing on March 4. Kyle Knox/CPAO



District 3 elders enjoy the brunch provided by Alyssa’s Kosin. Kyle Knox/CPAO

using mesquite flour for the waffles.

Tanya Garcia, District 3, and her family were present for the morning. She enjoys bringing her children to these events so they can learn more about their health and use that education at home. As luck would have it, later that morning, during a raffle drawing, her daughter Lex-

is won a cornhole set. The family was happy to receive the set to continue playing at home.

Every quarter Community Health host events focusing on some of the most significant health disparities the Community faces that provide education and movement. For example, they planned a basketball

tournament highlighting heart health in February. But unfortunately, that was postponed for April. And later this summer, they are preparing for a gathering focused on men’s health and wellness.

For more information on upcoming events, contact the Community Health Nutrition Program at 520-562-5126.



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**GOOD FRIDAY on APRIL 7, 2023**

# Arizona Coyotes debut 'Desert Collection' clothing line

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

First Friday in Downtown Phoenix, March 3, featured a heavy presence of the Arizona Coyotes executives, fans, and global fashion designer Rhuigi Villaseñor. Hundreds were in attendance for the launch of the Arizona Coyotes Desert Collection clothing line, which created a line that wrapped around the warehouse, allowing fans of the Coyotes and Villaseñor to purchase items

from the new line before becoming available to the general public.

Villaseñor, a Filipino American, has emerged in the fashion world through his company Rhude, as the Creative Director of Bally, and through his work with the Coyotes.

"This is a spectacular night, we are launching the Desert Collection, the Coyotes-inspired streetwear fashion line designed by Rhuigi Villaseñor," said Xavier Gutierrez, President and CEO of the Arizona

Coyotes. "This is what we envisioned, using merchandise to welcome our fans and fans in waiting that are maybe not hockey fans today but love the merch our collaboration and we welcome them."

The Coyotes' new fashion line features t-shirts, hats, and hoodies designed by Villaseñor, who became their Creative Strategist in Oct. 2022. The new Desert Collection items feature more of a "streetwear" look and appeal than traditional sports apparel.

This partnership serves as a growing market that combines fashion and sports apparel. Villaseñor has shared that his inspiration for the Coyotes collaborations is rooted in all things Arizona from the environment and people that comprise the state.

"The culture here is so rich, the environment here is rich, and so the design is so rich like Arizona, and all I could be is an amplifier of that," said Villaseñor. "I'm so inspired by Arizona and you'll see it in not the Coyotes line but in my Rhude, Bally and everything."

The new clothing line builds on the release of a third team Villaseñor designed jersey for the Coyotes. In Jan., Coyotes debuted what's called the "Desert Night" jersey for 14 regular games this season. The design greatly differs from the regular Kachina jersey sporting a burgundy colorway, and does not feature a coyote design anywhere.

But like all Coyotes jerseys, the Desert Night version features the Gila River Resorts & Casinos patch. "Again, I have to say thank you to our dear friends at Gila River Re-



Rhuigi Villaseñor holds the Desert Night jersey that he designed for the Arizona Coyotes. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Samples of the Desert Collection hang for patrons to purchase at the clothing line launch event in Phoenix. Kyle Knox/ GRIN

sorts & Casinos. You're not only our partner truly our friends and everything we do, we think of you as partners and night would not be possible without your support," said Xavier Gutierrez.



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EARN UP TO \$500 PER DAY**

**OVERNIGHT STAYS AND RETURN  
VISITS MAY BE REQUIRED**

**HelpResearch.com/Phoenix  
888-257-9393**

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**  
IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
IN THE MATTER OF: E. Minor  
Docket Number: JC-2015-0250-JC/ JC-2023-0030-CA  
This case has been scheduled and YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR on the date, time, and place designated below. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR a warrant may be issued for your arrest or judgment entered

in favor of the other party or if you fail to appear as an interested party you may be found in contempt of Court.  
**Answer/ Response Hearing**  
**Date:** June 2, 2023  
**Time:** 3:00 PM  
Westend Judicial Center  
4751 West Pecos Road,  
Laveen, AZ 85339

**COURT DATE NOTICE**  
IN THE SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
TO: FRANCISCO, MARISSA MARTINA  
CASE Number: J-23-0026  
COURT DATE: May 4, 2023 at 10AM COURTROOM #3, 1ST FLOOR

**FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS**  
Please take notice that a(n) **Informal Adjustment Agreement Review Hearing** has been scheduled in the SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT 10040 E. OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256. CONTACT: (480) 362-6315

**COURT DATE NOTICE**  
IN THE SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
TO: LEWIS, ROBI COREY  
CASE Number: J-23-0026  
COURT DATE: May 4, 2023 at 10AM COURTROOM #3, 1ST FLOOR

**FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS**  
Please take notice that a(n) **Informal Adjustment Agreement Review Hearing** has been scheduled in the SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT 10040 E. OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256. CONTACT: (480) 362-6315

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**  
IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
TO MONICA GONZALES SOLANO,  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
RUEBEN SOLANO, Petitioner/Plaintiff  
VS.  
MONICA GONZALES SOLANO, Respondent/Defendant  
CASE Number: FM-2022-0077-DV  
CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING  
Please take notice that a(n) Motion Hearing has been

scheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court. This matter has been scheduled at the place and time set forth below:  
Monday, March 27, 2023  
at 9:30 AM in Courtroom V,  
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,  
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.  
  
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.  
DATED this 18th day of January, 2023

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**  
IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
TO AMBER DAWN LEWIS  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
COUNTRY CLUB CARS, Petitioner/Plaintiff  
VS.  
AMBER DAWN LEWIS, Respondent/Defendant  
CASE Number: CV-2022-0112-MO  
CIVIL NOTICE OF HEARING  
Please take notice that a(n) Motion Hearing has been

scheduled in the Gila River Indian Community Court. This matter has been scheduled at the place and time set forth below:  
Monday, March 27, 2023  
at 9:30 AM in Courtroom I,  
AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,  
721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ.  
  
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Gila River Indian Community in the State of Arizona.  
DATED this 31st day of January, 2023



# HEADLINES EXECUTIVE OFFICE




## Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs establishes MMIP Task Force

**Kyle Knox**  
Gila River Indian News

On Tuesday, March 7, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs signed executive order 2023-08 to officially establish the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People at the state capitol. Several of the state’s MMIP study committee members attended the signing ceremony, including GRIC Lt. Gov. Monica Antone.

“By establishing this task force on missing and murdered Indigenous people, we are taking the first of many steps to stop the abuse, exploitation, and violence against Indigenous people,” said Gov. Hobbs. “This step is one of many that my administration will be taking to stop the violence against tribal members.”

The executive order will now transform the MMIP study committee’s findings from recommendations into actionable steps to address the MMIP issue plaguing Indigenous communities throughout the state.

Committee members present for the signing were: Alfred Urbina Jr., Attorney General for Pascua Yaqui Tribe; Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren, First Lady of the Navajo Nation; April Ignacio, Indivisible Tohono, GRIC Lt. Gov. Monica Antone, Rep. Myron Tsosie, LD6 Arizona House of Representatives, Kim Russell,



**Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs signs the executive order 2023-08 that will establish the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People on March 7 before members of the MMIP Study Committee including Lt. Gov. Monica Antone. Kyle Knox/GRIN**

Arizona Advisory Council of Indian Health Care, Senator Theresa Hatathlie-Delmar, D6 Arizona State Senator Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya, Honwungsi Consulting, and Paul Etnire, Dept. of Public Safety .

“Transitioning from a study committee to a task force is powerful because it’s the first time the state is taking this body of work

that has been completed by the study committee and moving it forward,” said April Ignacio. She is eager to begin work on the policy development of the task force. “There is so much work that we must do in our own communities to address the trauma and emotional healing. We have a lot of work in front of us and a lot of pressure to ensure that

the actions benefit the entire state,” said Ignacio.

The MMIP study committee, established in 2019, released a report in 2020 outlining the critical needs for the state to address the MMIP concerns. The report outlined nine crucial areas focused on state policy, victim services, resource allocation, training and education, law enforcement,

inter-agency collaboration, data gathering, and new legislation.

The executive order establishing this MMIP new task force will now collaborate with state, federal, and tribal agencies recommendations implementation proposed by the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Study Committee.

Their work will also include working with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office, tribal governments, and law enforcement to collect comprehensive data concerning violence

against Indigenous people and establish new ways to address the needs of victims and families affected by the MMIP issue.

As the task force advances, findings and recommendations from the task force to be enacted will be submitted to Gov. Hobbs at the end of each year from 2023-2026.

“This issue is as complex as it is heartbreaking,” said Hobbs. “This task force will bring together states and tribal leaders to find pathways to justice for the missing and murdered.”



**MMIP Study Committee members and Arizona legislative supporters at the signing (L-R) LD23 Rep. Mariana Sandoval, LD20 Rep. Andres Cano, Sen. Minority Leader LD12 Senator Mitzi Epstein, Alfred Urbina Jr., Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren, April Ignacio, Monica Antone, Rep. LD6 Myron Tsosie, Kim Russell, Arizona Sen. Theresa Hatathlie-Delmar, Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya, Paul Etnire, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes. Kyle Knox/GRIN**



**Arizona Attorney General Hayes shares remarks on the establishment of the MMIP Task Force and how her office will support it’s work. Kyle Knox/GRIN**





Sen. Mark Kelly and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis at the closing of the roundtable discussion at Arizona State University. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Gov. Lewis shares how the Community has implemented water conservation measures and will implement new strategies that will benefit the Community and Arizona. Kyle Knox/GRIN



Commissioner Camille Touton, US Bureau of Reclamation, attended the water roundtable discussion and shared critical updates on new water policies affect that will address the regional drought concerns. Kyle Knox/GRIN

**From the front page**

sure water conservation and how the state will improve water delivery. First, the BIL provided over \$200 million to maintain and enhance the state's existing water delivery system

projects. Some of those projects include constructing new water storage infrastructure, repairing and relining canals, and repairing and upgrading existing dams.

Then last year, Congress passed the IRA, which includes \$4 billion to support long-term solutions for nationwide water

conservation efforts.

While the BIL funding will support the existing systems, Sen. Kelly shared that these strategies will only help the short-term conservation efforts. However, developing long-term sustainable projects by stakeholders will remain necessary for federal funding use.

**\*\*\*UPDATE March, 24, 2023\*\*\***

**GILBERT ROAD CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENT TRAFFIC NOTICE**

The Casino Expansion Owners Team (CEOT) and Hunter Construction continue roadway construction for the improvement of the Hunt Highway Road intersection north of the Santan Mountain Casino Project site.

The work will affect the East and west bound lanes on Hunt Highway Road from **Sunday, March 26, 2023 to Saturday, May 20, 2023.**

**Beginning Sunday, March 26, 2023:**

- East bound & West bound will be CLOSED, West side of Gilbert Rd to Maren Drive through April 29, 2023, follow all Detour signs.

**Beginning Sunday, April 30, 2023**

- East bound & West bound will be CLOSED, East side of Gilbert Rd to Santa Rita through Saturday May 20, 2023, follow all Detour signs.
- North bound and South bound Gilbert Rd will continue with current traffic control plan with traffic flow barriers on North bound side of Gilbert Rd.
- Traffic Message Boards have been set-up for all roadways approach road construction area. Any change with traffic control plan will be updated accordingly.

The Gilbert Road & Hunt Highway Road Improvement Projects will continue to have reduced speeds in the construction zone **during paving and work in the intersection.**



If you have any questions, please contact the CEOT offices at 520-796-2850.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

**"SHARE YOUR VOICE"**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**APRIL 4, 2023**

**Location Change: D6-SERVICE CENTER**

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. COME JOIN US TO HELP PROMOTE SAFETY, RESPECT AND EQUALITY IN THE COMMUNITY.

DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED.

For more information contact:  
 Crime Victim Services at 520-562-4106  
 or  
 SANE Forensic Nursing Department at 520-562-5151

# K-12 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT




Mireya "Momo" Piedra, is a Junior at Casa Grande Union High School, Class of 2024. She is from District 3 - Gu'Ki, and is the daughter of Rachel Hernandez and the granddaughter of Pamela Morago and the late Charles Hernandez. She is the third eldest child with three sisters and two brothers.

She currently holds a 3.0 GPA and is a full-time cosmetology student with a 4.0 GPA at Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology Academy of Cosmetology in Coolidge.

"Some of my hobbies are cheer, tumbling, and softball but cheerleading is a very big part of my life," said Mireya, who has been cheering competitively for 12 years.

She is now on the Casa Grande Cougars Spiritline and Competitive Cheer Team and has competed with many cheer teams from Casa Grande: Revolution Cheer Company, Hot Spots Competitive Cheer Team, Villago Middle School, and Casa Grande Union High School. She also competed in gymnastics with Hot Spot Gymnastics Competitive Team.

"The gift of gymnastics and cheer has afforded me many amazing opportunities. The sport has also guided me and taught many things throughout my career," Mireya said.

Her biggest support is her mother, Rachel, "She not only pushes me on the mat, she pushes me in everything I do. She makes sure I have what I need to be successful. She is my number 1 fan!" Mireya said.

Mireya plans to continue her education with a scholarship for cheer leading. She's been contacted by multiple colleges and has already been assigned an NCAA recruiter. She plans to study Pediatric Nursing at a University.

"My goal is to be successful and graduate college with a Bachelor's degree in Pediatric Nursing. I also plan to do hair on the side while attending college to be financially stable."

Mireya's advice to fellow students: "Never give up. Some days you will be tired, not feel like doing what you need to, but get up, show up, and shine bright. The small sacrifices you make now, will help you accomplish everything you are dreaming of in the future."

**MIREYIA  
PIEDRA**



**CASA GRANDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL | 2023**



## ARE YOU READY TO GO PRO?

**The Phoenix Suns are looking for a superstar intern to join the team for the 2022-2023 season.**

**This is your shot to show of your skills with the Phoenix Suns as a paid intern.**

- Be a part of the Phoenix Suns Organization marketing team and assist with grassroots events, research and project executions. This includes researching other NBA team marketing efforts and developing database communication strategies.
- Help fulfill Corporate Partnerships and collect photos and data to support activation programs, as well as gain experience coordinating in-arena branding projects.
- Assist in ticket distribution & mailings. Help create and distribute promotional marketing materials. Learn data entry and database management, as well as assist in Game Night kiosk staffing.
- Assist with game/event paperwork, preparation, and project executions. Take on department and event-related projects while developing a broad knowledge of multiple event-related departments.
- If applicant has interest in the Suns organization beyond marketing, reasonable effort will be made to place applicant in applicable department.

**Jobs open to Gila River Indian Community members currently enrolled in a secondary education program. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter indicating areas of interest to [nstrunks@suns.com](mailto:nstrunks@suns.com).**



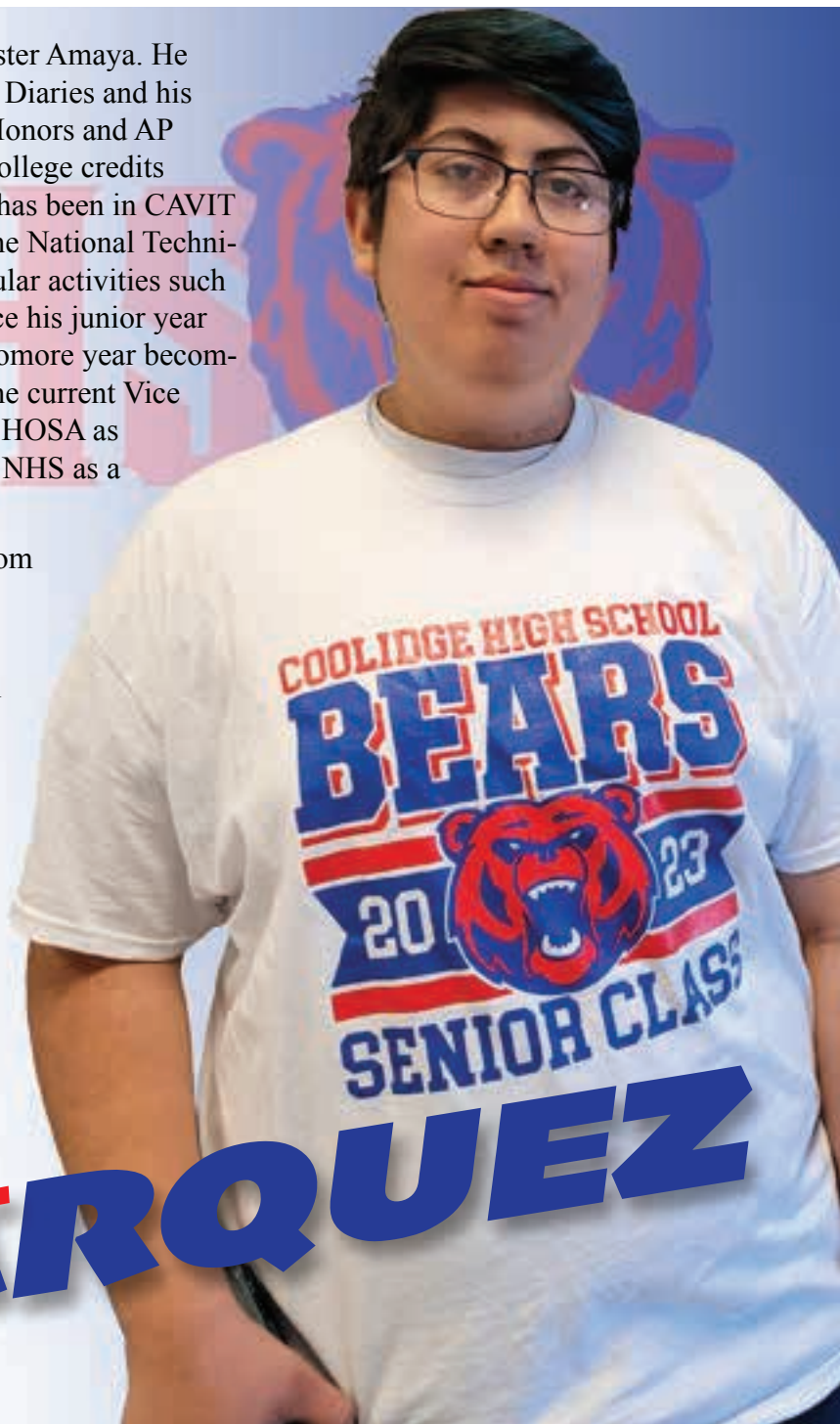
Angel has lived on the reservation his whole life with his mom, dad, and sister Amaya. He loves watching TV and listening to music, his favorite show is the Vampire Diaries and his favorite band is The Wallows. For the past four years, he's taken multiple Honors and AP classes, including dual enrollment courses. Angel has obtained at least 45 college credits through Central Arizona College in multiple math and science courses. He has been in CAVIT for the past two years studying Pharmacy Science and was invited to join the National Technical Honors Society in his second year. Angel is part of multiple extracurricular activities such as FCCLA, Yearbook, HOSA, and NHS. He has been a part of FCCLA since his junior year serving as the Public Relations Officer and part of Yearbook since his sophomore year becoming Senior Editor during his junior year. He is also a part of HOSA and is the current Vice President. Through HOSA he has competed in various competitions within HOSA as well such as Medical Terminology and Medical Math. Lastly, I am apart of NHS as a member and help out within the Community.

Angel attributes his scholastic achievements to his family, especially his mom and dad who are always helping out. He also thanks his friends, that have always been his support system and motivate him to try harder.

He plans to attend the Honors College at the University of Arizona and will be majoring in molecular biology and also plans to study abroad. Once obtaining his Bachelors' Degree, he wants to attend medical school to become a pathologist and work in a laboratory.

As a senior Angel has the following advice for his peers, "Many stressors come within your high school years, especially when you become an upperclassman. Do not let these stressors get in the way of accomplishing your goals. The effort you put into your work doesn't go unnoticed and over time you will be rewarded for your hard work."

Lastly, he offers the following advice for students as the school year approaches, "Balancing school, work and my extracurriculars is very challenging at times, but I have a system. I always write out a to-do list on my white board with everything that needs to be done. I also try to finish any work I have ASAP so that I don't stress about it later."



**ANGEL MARQUEZ**

COOLIDGE HIGH SCHOOL | 2023



**STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM**

**SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2023**

WE ARE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING IN-OFFICE VISITS. VIRTUAL MEETINGS CAN ALSO BE SCHEDULED BY CALLING IN.

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS:**

- APPLICATION
- 200 WORD ESSAY
- CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN BLOOD (DATED BY MARCH 1, 2023)
- ACCEPTANCE LETTER
- ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT (VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ONLY)
- PROGRAM OF STUDY
- OFFICIAL CLASS SCHEDULE
- STUDENT AID REPORT (FAFSA 2023-2024)
- HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR G.E.D.
- ENROLLED GRIC TRIBAL MEMBER
- RETURNING STUDENTS BE IN GOOD STANDING

**CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCES!**

**WE ACCEPT EARLY APPLICATIONS.**

STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM  
PHONE: (520) 562-3316

MAILING AT: P.O. BOX 97  
SACATON, AZ - 85147  
EMAIL: STUDENT.SERVICES@GRIC.NSN.US

ONLINE: WWW.GRICTED.COM





**2023 CHIEF AZUL AWARDS**

**Application Deadline Extended to April 10, 2023**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 7, 2023**



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
**TRIBAL EDUCATION**

**Questions?**  
Call: (520) 562-3662  
Email: TEDEvents@gric.nsn.us  
Visit: GRICTED.com

# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary's Office • March. 1, 2023

**ACTION SHEET**

Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

**CALL TO ORDER**

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, March 1, 2023, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:03 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Provided by Councilwoman Regina Antone

**ROLL CALL**

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Lt. Governor Monica Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Arzie Hogg; D2- Ann Lucas;

D3- Avery White, Rodney Jackson; D4- Christopher Mendoza, Jennifer Allison,

Regina Antone; D5- Marlin Dixon

Council Members Attending via WebEx Platform:

D5-James De La Rosa

D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr.

D6- Charles Goldtooth

D6- Terrance Evans

Council Members Absent:

D4- Nada Celaya

D5- Brian Davis, Sr.

D5- Wahlean Riggs

D7- Devin Redbird

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORT #2 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL AND ACCEPT MATERIAL PERTAINING TO NEW BUSINESS #3

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTION #2 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE PRESENTATION #1 SKYLINE GILA RIVER AND APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**

\*1. Skyline Gila River Introduction Presenters: Isaac Salcido, Swen Anderson, Keith Brown, Dr. Pamela Chandler

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**REPORTS**

1. Office of the Prosecutor FY2023 1st Quarterly Report

Presenter: M. Lando Voyles, Carleton Giff, David Williams

REPORT HEARD

>2. Pima Leasing & Financing Corporation Annual Report FY2022

Presenter: Teresa Mandelin

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**RESOLUTIONS**

\*1. A Resolution Designating The Right Of Way Negotiation Team To Serve As The Negotiation Team For The Southwest Gas Pipeline Abandonment In District 6 (NRSC forwards to Council; CRSC and EDSC concur)

Presenters: Bartley Harris; Denten Robinson

APPROVED

>2. A Resolution Granting A Permanent Irrigation Easement To The United States Of America For The Managed Aquifer Recharge Site 8B Monitoring Wells Located In District 4 (Monitoring Well #4 And Monitoring Well #1) Both Located On Community Trust Land Within The

Exterior Boundary Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda with corrections)

Presenter: David DeJong

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. A Resolution Rescinding Resolution GR-051-18 And Approving The Designation Of 20.0003 Acres, More Or Less, Of Tribal Land Within District Three Of The Gila River Indian Community To The Gila River Police Department For The Purpose Of Design, Construction, Maintenance, And Operation Of A New Police

Department Headquarters Building As Shown In Drawing 40322-0046TP (NRSC forwards to Council; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Norman Brewer, Corinna Ortiz, Kimberly Antone, Rebecca Hall

APPROVED

**ORDINANCES**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Community Council Secretary Declaration of Vacancy (Advertise for 60 days; subject to the Code of Conduct)

Presenters: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DECLARE THE VACANCY AND ADVERTISE FOR 60 DAYS SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

OF CONDUCT

{GOVERNOR STEPHEN R. LEWIS TURNED THE MEETING OVER TO LT. GOVERNOR MONICA ANTONE; GOVERNOR IS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND A MEETING WITH ARIZONA STATE GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS}

3. Law Enforcement Citizen's Advisory Board (1) Appointment (LSC forwards to Council the Law Enforcement Citizen's Advisory Board Appointment of Ramona Sabori for District Four)

Presenter: Shannon White

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT RAMONA SABORI TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD FOR DISTRICT FOUR; MOTION DEFEATED

**MINUTES**

1. February 1, 2023 (Regular) APPROVED

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- DISTRICT 4 PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023
- SPECIAL HEALTH & SOCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.
- THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 FOR A STAFF MEETING

**ADJOURNMENT**

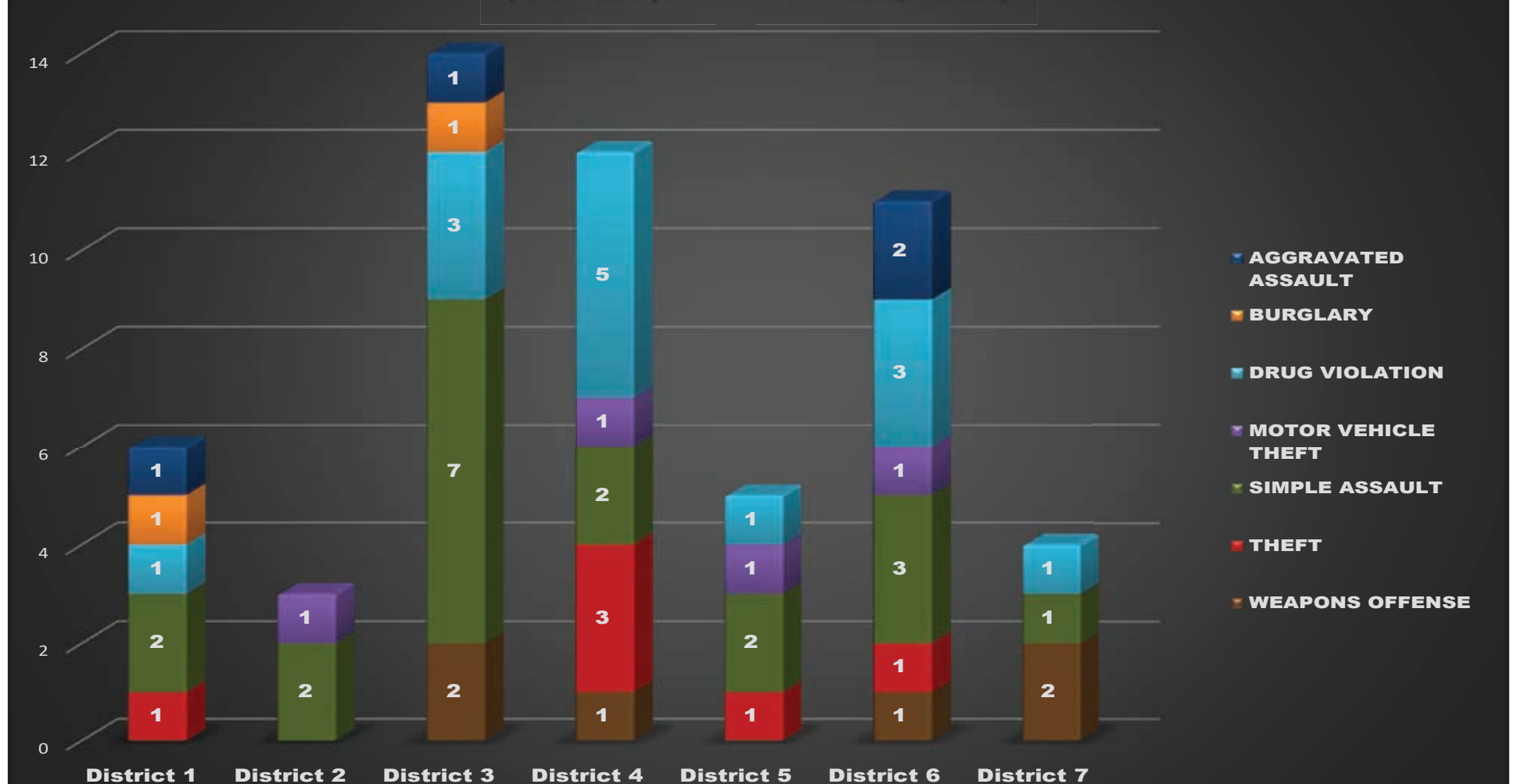
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:13 A.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

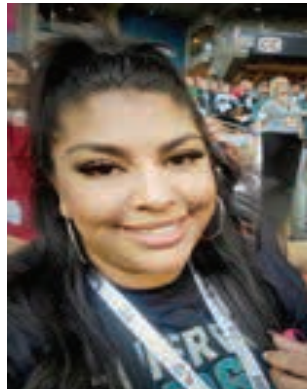
## Gila River Police Department Incident Logs

Community Wide Crimes (February 27- March 12, 2023)



# What's New at GRICUA?

**Submitted by**  
Gila River Indian  
Community Utility Authority  
*Jasmine Martinez and Super Bowl LVII*



Congratulations to our Customer Service Coordinator, Jasmine Martinez (D1), for being one of the lucky winners of the Community's Super Bowl LVII Lottery! Everyone in the office and the crew in the field heard her screams as her name was announced as one of the winners. Although her team, the Philadelphia Eagles, did not win, she would like to thank the Community for giving her this once in a lifetime opportunity to go to a Super Bowl.



**Mindi Harrah Retires**  
GRICUA's GIS Analyst, Melinda "Mindi" Harrah, retired from GRICUA last month. Ms. Harrah started her career at GRICUA in November 2018. She plans on moving to Boise, Idaho to enjoy her retirement. We wish her all the best!  
**Congrats Dewey Newton**  
Congratulations to Dewey Newton

for reaching the 3rd Step of the Meter Technician Apprenticeship. Dewey has been working alongside GRICUA's Meter



Technician, Calvin Tullie.  
**High School and College Summer Internship Programs**

GRICUA is now accepting applications for its High School and College Summer Internship Programs. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 12, 2023 by 4:00 PM. Please stop by our office or visit our website at [www.gricua.net](http://www.gricua.net) for more information and to download the application. Interviews will be held the week of May 15th and start dates will depend on the student's last day of school.

**Pre-Paid Metering**  
GRICUA's Pre-Paid Metering Program (PPMP) is a new way of paying for your electricity. The PPMP offers GRICUA customers an opportunity to pay in advance for electricity, manage energy use and conserve energy. Studies have shown that pre-pay accounts help customers use less electricity, saving them money. Customers will pre-pay for their electricity and receive daily text or email notifications of the amount used and balance remaining on their account. Be IN CONTROL with a GRICUA Pre-Pay Account.

GRICUA Will Alert You When Your Account:  
• Has fallen below your requested threshold balance and when you successfully make a payment.  
• Is eligible for disconnection, has been disconnected, or has been reconnected.  
GRICUA customers can enroll in our PPMP by calling our Customer Service

Department at (520)796-0600. You will need to settle your account balance and make a minimum \$10 payment. See Terms and Conditions on our website at [www.gricua.net](http://www.gricua.net). Forms can be downloaded from GRICUA's website, emailed to our customers or obtained at our office.

**Budget Billing Program**  
GRICUA's Budget Billing Program is a no cost program that averages out your seasonal highs and lows based on a rolling twelve-month average of your bills. Customer bills will vary from month to month, however they should stay at a consistent average based on your rolling usage. Budget billing amounts will be able to be submitted to your District Service Center for Community assistance based on your eligibility. Please call (520) 796-0600 for more information.

**Bill Payment Options for GRICUA Residential Customers:**  
Bill Payment Options for GRICUA Residential Customers:  
• GRICUA Drop Payment Box  
• Online (VISA and Mastercard Credit/Debit Cards and E-check)  
• GRICUA Mobile App  
• By phone (520-796-0600, 24 hours a day)  
• By mail (6636 W. Sundust Rd., Box 5091, Chandler, AZ 85226)

**Reminders**  
**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**  
GRICUA is a member of Arizona Blue Stake. Please call 1-800-782-5348 to request an underground line locate of both GRICUA and SCIP on reservation facilities.

GRICUA welcomes your comments. You can email comments to [gricuacomment@gricua.net](mailto:gricuacomment@gricua.net). You can also go to our website at [www.gricua.net](http://www.gricua.net).

**GRICUA's Hours of Operation**  
Monday – Friday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Payments are accepted on-line and by phone both during our normal operating hours as well as afterhours. If you have any questions regarding your statement or payment options please call during normal business hours.

## Kwi I'ivakithak Mashath 2023 Word Match SOLUTION!

s-oam e'es

thash ma:hag

ho:hi e'es

chi:no hi:thpa

chu:v thataḡ

thohavs

hevel hiosig



Photographs Courtesy Robert Johnson

**GRICUA'S STEAAAM SUMMER PROGRAM**

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | ART | ARCHITECTURE | AGRICULTURE | MATH

**JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>-9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**GRIC COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLY**

**GRADES 5-8**

**BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED**

**FIELD TRIPS & HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES**

**It's WATT We Do!**

**SIGN-UP TODAY DEADLINE MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**502-796-0600**    **WWW.GRICUA.NET**

**SAFETY SEAT TIPS**

The Gila River Indian Community Injury Prevention Program wants to remind community members to ride safe by following a few safety tips.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY PROPERLY BUCKLING UP OUR CHILDREN AND LOVED ONES ON EVERY TRIP.

WE CAN REDUCE THE RISK OF INJURY OF OUR CHILDREN BY AS MUCH AS 71 - 82% IF WE PUT THEM IN A CHILD SAFETY SEAT- VERSUS WHEN WE ONLY USE A SEAT BELT BY ITSELF.

IF WE WANT TO REDUCE THE RISK FOR DEATH AND SERIOUS INJURY BY ABOUT HALF, WE CAN IF WE USE SEAT BELTS FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

IF WE USE BOOSTER SEATS, IT WILL HELP PREVENT MODERATE AND SERIOUS CRASH INJURIES AMONG OUR CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THE AGES OF 7 AND 8 YEARS.

FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY TIPS FROM THE CDC, PLEASE SCAN THE CODE

**CAR SEAT SAFETY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHILD SAFETY SEAT AND SEAT BELT SAFETY, PLEASE CALL THE GRIC INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM 520-562-5091

# CROSSROADS AUTO CENTER

## Not Getting A Large Tax Refund?

### Let the Crossroads Leprechaun Double Your Refund!

And That's  
Not All!

\$2500

Minimum Trade-In  
Regardless Of  
Condition!\*

NO  
High Pressure

NO  
Payments  
Until June!\*\*

\$0 Down  
Payment!\*\*\*

All From Casa Grande's Oldest Used Car Dealer,  
28 Years Serving Happy Customers!

2021 NISSAN  
ALTIMA SR



Fall in Love Again

2021 TOYOTA  
COROLLA



Like New  
Only 17,000 Miles

2016 DODGE  
GRAND CARAVAN



34,000 Miles  
\$275/mo.

2021 TOYOTA  
CAMRY



\$23,999

2018 CHEVY  
4X4



Crew Cab  
Hard to Find

2019  
CHRYSLER 300



Super Clean

2019 FORD  
FUSION



Spring Closeout  
\$18,999



2019 JEEP  
RENEGADE



Huge Savings  
Low Low Miles

2020 CHRYSLER  
VOYAGER



Save \$1,000s

2017 TOYOTA  
TUNDRA



Crew Max 4x4  
\$34,999

2015 RAM  
LARAMIE



Low Miles

2018 JEEP  
WRANGLER



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2018 NISSAN  
ARMADA



Room for the Family

2020 NISSAN  
PATHFINDER



Platinum  
Fully Loaded



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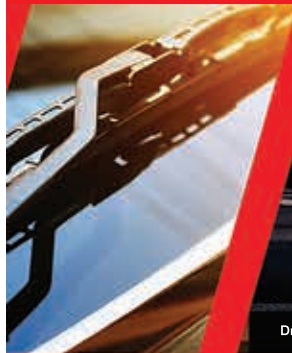
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\*some vehicles may be additional cost  
\*excluded specialty vehicles  
\*adjustments in addition to factory parts are extra cost

Valid Monday-Saturday 3/27/23-4/23/23. See store for more details. Offer may not be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. Promotions have no cash value. Offer cannot be sold or otherwise bartered. Void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.

**PREMIER MITSUBISHI**

**Brake Pad Replacement**  
SPECIAL  
**\$159.95**

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**PREMIER MITSUBISHI**

**Oil and Filter Change** Synthetic Blend Oil  
SPECIAL  
**\$29.95**

\*up to 5 quarts (each additional quart \$5.25)  
\*full synthetic oil additional cost  
\*specialty vehicles excluded

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